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Letter dated 19 April 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of 17 April 2012 with regard to the presidential statement issued by the Security Council on 16 April 2012 (see annex).

I would appreciate it if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Sin** Son Ho
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 19 April 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

17 April 2012

The United States and its followers committed the hostile act of violating the right of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to a satellite launch by abusing the United Nations Security Council again.

On 16 April the Security Council issued a statement of its President "condemning" the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's satellite launch for peaceful purposes.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea took steps to show sincerity and transparency in respect of the satellite launch for peaceful purposes to the maximum, from A to Z, as an exception and aroused the sympathy of the broad world public.

The United States, finding it hard to conceal the truth, after hatching all sorts of dastardly tricks to prevent the peaceful nature of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's satellite launch from being confirmed objectively and persistently terming it a long-range missile launch, imposed upon the Security Council its brigandish demand that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea should not be allowed to launch even a satellite for peaceful purposes.

The Security Council has been abused under the pressure of high-handed and arbitrary practices of the United States and the catastrophic consequences are still felt today in various parts of the world.

Security Council resolutions 1718 (2006) and 1874 (2009) which the hostile forces regard as the "ground" for taking issue with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's satellite launch are a product of their high-handed policy for antagonizing and oppressing the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the height of illegality; they are faked up at random, disregarding even universally accepted international law.

It is the brigandish essence of these resolutions that those countries which refuse to meekly obey the United States should not be allowed to develop their national defence capability and to this end they should be deprived of even their right to launch satellites for peaceful purposes.

Such unreasonable double standards are possible at the Security Council because such standards are in line with the interests of those countries keen to monopolize such cutting-edge technology as satellite launches.

The present developments clearly show that the principle of equality as regards sovereignty set out in the Charter of the United Nations is a mere high-sounding word and justice should be protected by one's own efforts.

The Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea declares as follows in connection with the grave infringement upon the right of the sovereign State to launch satellites for peaceful purposes:

Firstly, we resolutely and totally reject the unreasonable behaviour of the Security Council in violating the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's legitimate right to launch satellites.

It is the unshakable principle of the army and people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea not to tolerate even the slightest element that derides and encroaches upon the dignity of the nation and the sovereignty of the country.

Secondly, we will continue exercising the independent right to use space recognized by the universally accepted international laws which are above the Security Council resolutions.

We will expand and strengthen space development institutions and continue launching a variety of working satellites needed for the economic development of the country, including geostationary satellites under the state plan for space development.

Nothing can stand in the way of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's space development for peaceful purposes.

Thirdly, as the United States violated the Democratic People's Republic of Korea-United States agreement of 29 February through its undisguised hostile acts, we will no longer be bound by it.

We have repeatedly made clear from the outset that we will sincerely implement the agreement of 29 February to the last, and took practical steps to implement it as the satellite launch for peaceful purposes is an issue quite different from the agreement.

No sooner had the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's plan for a satellite launch been announced than the United States suspended the process for the provision of food pursuant to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea-United States agreement under that pretext. This time, the United States spearheaded the hostile act of encroaching upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's legitimate right to launch satellites by abusing the position as President of the Security Council.

The United States finally reneged on its promise that "it respects the sovereignty of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and has no hostile intent toward it" in practice, totally violating the agreement of 29 February.

We have thus become able to take necessary retaliatory measures, free from the agreement. The United States will be held wholly accountable for all the ensuing consequences.

Peace is very dear to us but the dignity of the nation and the sovereignty of the country are dearer to us.